

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /076 W
-----103364 120545Z /21

R 111800Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7925
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, BR
SUBJ: POSSIBLE GOB ACTION AGAINST BISHOP PEDRO CASALDALIGA

REF: A) STATE 181706 B) BRASILIA 6497

1. CONGEN OFF SPOKE WITH MARIO SIMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION AND LAWYER FOR DOM PEDRO CASALDALIGA, AUGUST 8. HE STATED THAT THE CASE AGAINST DOM PEDRO APPEARS TO BE DORMANT JUST NOW BUT BELIEVES THAT GOB WILL FIND SOME WAY TO TURN THE PRESSURE ON AGAIN. SIMAS TOOK HEART FROM THE WARM REFERENCE TO DOM PEDRO IN OSSERVATORE ROMANO ABOUT A MONTH AGO, EVIDENCE OF VATICAN SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE CHURCH'S FRONT LINES. BUT HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE CHURCH HAS OPENED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION, HEADED BY A BISHOP, TO DETERMINE WHETHER DOM PEDRO IS A COMMUNIST.

2. SIMAS WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE GOB PATTERN OF PRESSURE AGAINST THE CLERGY OF ALL RELIGIONS. HE CITED FATHER CAPUANO, WAYNE HOWARD NORTON (SEPTOL), (SWISS) FATHER ROMAIN, AND BRAZILIANS, FATHER BALDUINO AND THE BISHOP AND ARCHBISHOP OF BELEM. DOM PEDRO'S CASE WAS ONE MORE WITHIN THIS PATTERN. SIMAS THOUGHT THAT
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CERTAIN GROUPS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN BUSINESS HAD DIRECT INTEREST IN LIMITING CHURCH ACTIVITY AMONG THE URBAN POOR AND FRONTIER SPATTERS INVOLVED IN LAND DISPUTES. SINCE THE CHURCH ACTIVITY IN THESE AREAS WAS PORTRAYED AS ALLIED WITH SUBVERSIVE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREDISPOSED TO INVESTIGATE. COMMENT: KEEPING PRESSURE UP AGAINST THE CLERGY SERVES SEVERAL OTHER POLITICA OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT

CREATES DOUBT ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE CLERGY, UNDERCUTTING ITS STAND AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO THE FEELING OF A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT, TENDING TO JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF THE MILITARY IN POWER.

3. SIMAS SAID THE GOB HAD FOCUSSED ON FOREIGN CLERGY BECAUSE IT HAD THE DESIRED SHOCK EFFECT ON CHURCH ACTIVITY WITHIN BRAZIL AND BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT SEEMED PREPARED TO TAKE ITS LUMPS WITH INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. HE THOUGHT THE NATURAL LONGER TERM REACTION OF THE CHURCH WOULD BE TO PUT BRAZILIAN CLERGY INTO SENSITIVE AREAS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN BRASILIA 6497, EMBASSY IS PREPARING REPORT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHURCH-GOB RELATIONS. CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: EXPULSION, CLERGYMEN, NATIONALS, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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